



LASH LARUE

"king of the bullwhip"

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

NY 49

LASH LARUE

WESTERN

10¢



IN THIS ISSUE...
"THE DUKE
TAKES THE
COUNT"

Giordano
Klausman

In 10 Minutes of **FUN** a day I changed myself

Now, Buddy YOU

Mail the
Coupon below
as I did!
May be LAST
CHANCE be-
fore \$1 price
goes back!

GET ALL THESE
PICTURE
PACKED
COUPONS

**5
FREE**

If you mail
coupon NOW!

Millions
have
been sold
at \$1.

Ken
GRIMM
AFTER
MAILING
COUPON

from this
Bloodless, Pitiful
**SKINNY
SHRIMP**

Ken Grimm BEFORE
mailing
coupon

to
this

**NEW MUSCULAR
RED-BLOODED
HEAD-TO-TOE
HE-MAN!**



I just
**GAINED
35 NEW LBS.**
OF SHAPELY POWER-PACKED
MUSCLES!

You can do the same
as I and THOUSANDS have
You can add 10 inches to your CHEST
6 inches to each ARM and
the rest in proportion as I did.

NO! friend you don't have to be **SKINNY, WEAK or FLABBY** any more
just mail **NOW** the **FREE** coupon below as I did.
Besides getting ALL 5 Courses (pictured on this page) **FREE** (MILLIONS
HAVE OFFER
SOLD FOR \$1.)
you'll ALSO get **FREE** a big BOOK of PHOTOS of STRONG MEN
and BOYS who were WEAKLINGS like you BEFORE mailing coupon.
THIS THRILLING BOOK WILL ALSO TELL YOU

HOW YOU

CAN WIN
A BIG 15" TALL
SILVER CUP
as I just did
and how to

**WIN
\$100.**



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Send coupon to: JIMMY'S INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
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Strong Men and a Muscle Meter also get 5 Big Book Building
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Mighty Arm 3 How to Build a Mighty Back 4 How to Build
a Mighty Grip 5 How to Build a Mighty Legs. Here are all the
facts for you to build a healthy body. ENCLOSED FIND THE
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NAME _____ AGE _____

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LASH La RUE WESTERN

The following outstanding magazines are easily identified as their covers by the words A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

ATOMIC BUNCH • COWBOY WESTERN HEROES • CRIME AND JUSTICE • FUNNY ANIMALS
EAT THE HEART • HAUNTS • HIT BIDS AND RACING CARS • JOKES • LASH
LASH La RUE WESTERN • BRIM LANE WESTERN • RACKET SQUAD • SIX-GUN HEROES
ROMANTIC NIGHT • SILENT-FUNCTION SPACE ADVENTURES • STRANGE SUSPENSE STORIES
SWAKTHRAST • THE LITTLE WESTERN • TRUE LIFE SECRETS • TV TEENS • THE THING

Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment.



LASH La RUE WESTERN



YOU SHOULD'VE SENT MORE N ONE MARSHAL, CHIEF! NO ONE LAWMAN'S GONNA HANDLE THE LIKES OF DUKE MACFEE!

LASH IS NOT AN ORDINARY LAWMAN, BUCK! HE'S A WHOLE POSSE ROLLED INTO ONE...

MEANWHILE, AT A HIDDEN CAVE IN CACTUS GULCH...



RECKON THAT'S ENOUGH OF THE STUFF FER TODAY! THE REAL BEAUTY OF THIS IS THAT NOT EVEN MY HELP KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

... AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER ...



THERE... THE DOUGH'S IN THE SAFE! I'LL BE READY FER BUSINESS IN A FEW MINUTES... ALL SET TO PAY THE LUCKY GAMBLERS WHO BEAT THE HOUSE!

IN THE LOBBY OF THE CACTUS GULCH HOTEL...

THAT'S RIGHT, SLADE! DUKE FILLS HIS SAFE WITH DOUGH EVERY DAY! HE ONCE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN AND I SAW THE COMBINATION!



ONE THING PUZZLES ME, DANIEL... AS A CROUPIER AT DUKE'S PLACE, WHY DON'T YUH BIG ONE OF THE TABLES SO ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS WINS... THEN SPLIT THE TAKE?

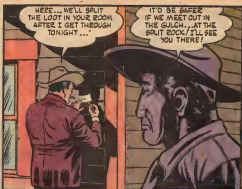


THE DUKE DON'T GO IN FER CROOKED GAMBLIN, SLADE! AND HE WATCHES US TOO CLOSE FER US TO DO IT! BUT SOME- BODY COULD SLIP INTO HIS OFFICE AND CLEAN OUT THE SAFE... IF THEY HAD THE COMBINATION!



WHAT'S THE SPLIT, DANIEL?

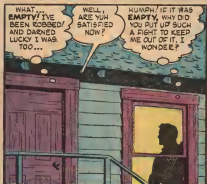
LASH La RUE WESTERN



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LATER THAT NIGHT,
AT THE SPLIT ROCK,
DANIEL WAITS...

GETTIN' LATE ... WHY AIN'T
BLADE HERE YET? THE
LEAST HE COULD DO IS GET
HERE ON TIME... AFTER I
CUT HIM IN ON THE
DEAL...



AN HOUR
PASSES...
THEN
ANOTHER...



SHOULD A
KNOWN IT? WELL,
WE AIN'T GETTIN'
AWAY WITH NO
DOUBLE-CROSS!
GET GOIN',
HORSE!

MEANWHILE

NO EVIDENCE AT
DUKE'S HOUSE EITHER,
SHERIFF? I KNOW HE'S
GUILTY... BUT WE
CAN'T HOLD HIM...

WAIT A
MINUTE...
HERE COMES
DANIEL, ONE
OF DUKE'S
CROUPIERS!



EVENING, GENTS... GUESS DUKE'S
REPORTED THE ROBBERY BY NOW?
WELL, I SAW WHO DID IT...

WHAT ROB...
OOOOH!



BUT I AIN'T TALKIN' UNLESS
MY NAME'S KEPT QUIET! I
DON'T WANT THE BANDIT
GUNNIN' FER ME FEE
TELLIN' ON HIM!

WHY DIDN'T
YOU REPORT
THIS HOUSE
AGO?

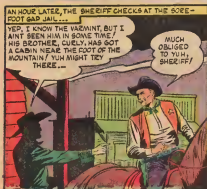
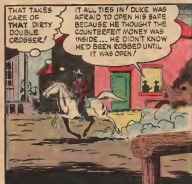
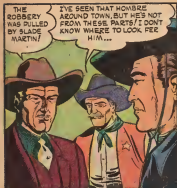


BECAUSE OF WHAT I JUST SAID!
BUT IF YUH GUARANTEE TO KEEP
ME OUT OF IT, I WON'T BE TAKIN'
ANY CHANCES / HOW ABOUT IT?

IT'S A DEAL!
NOW SPILL IT...
WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
IT?



LASH La RUE WESTERN



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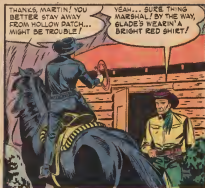


LASH LaRUE WESTERN



I'M LASH LARUE...
ROVING MARSHAL!
I'M LOOKING FOR
YOUR BROTHER,
SLADE! SEEN
HIM?

UH...YEAH! CAME IN
HERE LIKE A WILD MAN
AND LEFT AGAIN RIGHT
AWAY! WANTS ME TO
MEET HIM UP IN HOLLOW
PATCH IN AN
HOUR...



THANKS, MARTIN! YOU
BETTER STAY AWAY
FROM HOLLOW PATCH...
MIGHT BE TROUBLE!

YEAH... SURE THING
MARSHAL! BY THE WAY,
SLADE'S WEARIN' A
BRIGHT RED SHIRT!



CURLY... WAKE UP! SORRY I LOST MY HEAD! I
BEEEN THINKIN'... YOU'RE DEAD RIGHT! I'LL
NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT, SO...

OOOOOH!



...I'M ASKIN' YUH AS A FAVOR
TO TAKE THE MONEY AND MEET
ME AT HOLLOW PATCH IN AN HOUR!
I'LL REVIVE THE SHERIFF AND
RIDE OUT TO MEET YUH!

BUT...
WHY CAN'T
I WAIT FER
YUH RIGHT
HERE?



THERE WAS ANOTHER GUY IN ON
THE ROBBERY, CURLY, AND I
CROSSED HIM! HE MIGHT GET
HERE AND STEAL THE MONEY
BACK BEFORE I CAN TURN IT
IN! THIS WAY IT'LL BE SAFE,
SEE...?

ALL RIGHT,
SLADE!
HOLLOW
PATCH... IN
ONE HOUR!



ONE MORE THING, CURLY!
THAT PARTNER OF MINE'S
ALL DRESSED IN BLACK...
AND CARRIES A BULLWHIP!
IF YUH SPOT HIM, DON'T
GIVE HIM NO CHANCE...
HE'S A KILLER!

THANKS!
I'LL TAKE
CARE OF
MYSELF!

LASH La RUE WESTERN

I KNEW THE FOOL WOULDN'T HAVE THE SENSE TO LOOK INTO THE MONEY BAG... IT'S FULL OF WORTHLESS PAPER! AND THE REAL DOUGH IS IN THIS SADDLE BAG! NOW NOTHIN' CAN STOP ME FROM GETTIN' AWAY!



LATER, AT HOLLOW PATCH...

SOMEBODY'S DOWN... MUST BE SLADE! I'LL JUST GET BEHIND THESE BUSHES UNTIL I'VE MADE SURE...



BLACK CLOTHES... AND THE BULLWHIP! IT'S THE MAN SLADE WARNED ME ABOUT!

COME OFF THAT HORSE... WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

THAT RED SHIRT... SLADE MARTIN!



DON'T TRY ANY... OWWW!



AS IF BY MAGIC, THE MARSHAL'S SUN APPEARS IN HIS HAND! A SHOT RINGS OUT...

RIGHT OUTA MY HAND... BEFORE I COULD PULL THE TRIGGER! I'VE GONNA RUN FOR IT...

HALT, SLADE!



WHAT THE...



GO AHEAD, KILLER... GET IT OVER WITH!

KILLER? WHAT'S YOUR GAME THIS TIME, SLADE? OR... OR ARE YOU SLADE? I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT...



LASH La RUE WESTERN

AFTER THE FIRST DOUBT AS TO HIS PRISONER'S IDENTITY DAWNS ON LASH, EXPLANATIONS SOON REVEAL THE ACTUAL SITUATION...

HURRY UP, SLADES PROBABLY KILLED THAT SHERIFF IN MY CELLAR ALREADY...



MEANWHILE, AT THE GAMBLING HOUSE, DANIEL HEARS...

DUKE'S BEEN JAILED! I DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW WHY, EXCEPT THAT IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS SAFE!

IF DUKE EVER FINDS OUT I GAVE AWAY THE COMBINATION, MY LIFE AINT WORTH A PLUGGED PESO! I BETTER LAM OUTA TOWN... PRONTO!



I'LL HEAD FOR SOREFOOT GAP... AND THE RAILROAD!



MEANWHILE... NO SIGN OF SLADE IN YOUR CABIN NOW...

LET'S LOOK IN THE CELLAR!



SURE GLAD TO FIND YOU ALL RIGHT, SHERIFF... WHERE'S SLADE?

SLADE? I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE... BEFORE I GOT SLUGGED! WHAT'S GOIN ON AROUND HERE, ANYWAY?



SLADE FEELS PRETTY SURE OF HIMSELF... LEAVING YOU LIKE THIS AND ALL! AND HE CAN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY... I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

I'D LIKE TO GO WITH YUH, LASH, BUT I RECKON THAT CRACK ON THE HEAD DIDN'T HELP MATTERS NONE! I FEEL GROGGY AS ALL GET OUT...



A FEW MILES FROM THE CABIN, SLADE STOPS...

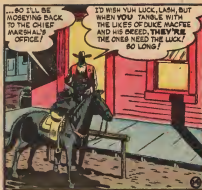
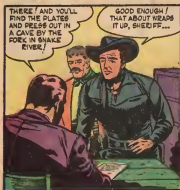
DANG BLAST IT... THE HORSE HAS GONE LAME! I'LL HAVE TO WALK THE REST OF THE WAY TO SORE-FOOT GAP!



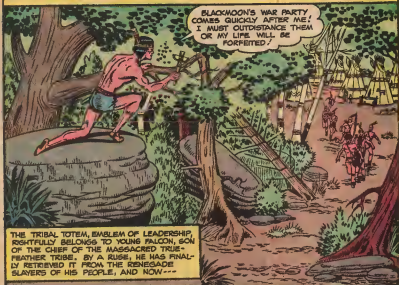
LASH La RUE WESTERN



LASH La RUE WESTERN



YOUNG FALCON ⁱⁿ "CAPTIVE!"



I WILL SEIZE ONE OF THEIR HORSES. THEY WILL SURELY CAPTURE ME UNLESS I TAKE THEM UNAWARES.

NEARING THE HORSES, YOUNG FALCON MAKES HIS DASH INTO THE OPEN AND SELECTS A FAST MOUNT...

LOOK! THERE HE IS! AFTER HIM! YOUNG FALCON MUST NOT ESCAPE!

THEY SEE ME! BUT I WILL OUTDISTANCE THEM ON HORSE-BACK!

SIDDAAP!



LASH La RUE WESTERN

MOMENTS LATER, YOUNG FALCON THUNDERS ALONG A FOREST TRAIL---

I'LL LOSE THEM IN THIS FOREST TRAIL. BLACKMOON AND HIS WAR PARTY WILL NEVER CATCH ME! MY RIGHTFUL TRIBAL TOTEM IS MINE AT LAST!



WHEN SUDDENLY---

WHOA! WHAT IS IT?

HELP!
....HELP ME,
PLEASE!



MY LEG, ITS GUN BROKEN. I'M A TRAPPER.. FELL FROM MY HORSE AND LANDED ON MY LEG. HORSE RAN AWAY.

YOU CANNOT STAY HERE. A WAR PARTY COMES THIS WAY SOON! BLACKMOON WILL KILL YOU, SURELY! HE IS A MURDERER!

RECKON THEN MY NUMBER IS UP! I CANT TRAVEL THIS WAY-- THEY'D BE SURE TO CATCH ME ANYWAY!

THIS POOR MAN WILL BE TORTURED AND THEN KILLED BY BLACKMOON AND HIS BRAVES! THEY WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE NOW!

AS YOUNG FALCON STRUGGLES WITHIN HIMSELF, HE KNOWS HIS PURSUERS DRAW NEARER BY THE SECOND!

I SHOULD BE ON MY HORSE, FLEEING. YET I CANNOT LEAVE THIS POOR MAN TO CERTAIN DEATH WHILE I HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE HIM. MY BLAIN FATHER WOULD NOT WANT ME TO DO SUCH AN UNWORTHY THING!



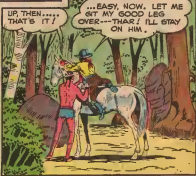
CAN YOU RIDE? I WILL GIVE YOU MY HORSE!

I RECKON I COULD HANS ON IF I GIT HELPED UP.



UP, THEN..... THAT'S IT!

...EASY, NOW. LET ME GIT MY GOOD LEG OVER---THAR! I'LL STAY ON HIM.



LASH LaRUE WESTERN

TWO OF US WOULD SLOW THE HORSE TOO MUCH, THEY'D CATCH US BOTH. NOW QUICKLY....RIDE LIKE THE WIND.

SON... ..I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU FER THIS!

AND AS THE THUNDERING HOOPS OF THE WAR PARTY ARE HEARD, YOUNG FALCON SENDS AWAY HIS ONE CHANCE OF ESCAPE.....

NOW, GO! MY FATHER, WOULD WANT ME TO DO THIS. HE ALWAYS SAID, NEVER BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE BLOOD OF A HELPLESS, INNOCENT MAN!

THE OLD TRAPPER FADES INTO THE WOODS, AND AS YOUNG FALCON TURNS---

THERE HE IS! HE HAS LOST THE HORSE! QUICK---- CATCH HIM!

SO! THE SCAVENGERS HAVE FINALLY GOTTEN HERE!



THIS TIME, WE WILL PLUCK YOUR WINGS FOREVER, YOUNG FALCON!

BLACK-HEARTED MURDERERS! I WILL NEVER BOW TO YOU!



TAKE YOUR LAST BREATH, YOUNG FALCON! YOU ARE ABOUT TO DIE!



HELPLESSLY YOUNG FALCON FACES THE ARROW-HEADS THAT WILL BRING DEATH! CAN HE POSSIBLY CHEAT THE GRIM REAPER? OR HAS HIS VALIANT BATTLE COME TO AN END?

BUT SOON AFTER, AT THE EDGE OF THE RENEGADE CAMP---

AND NOW, THE TRIBAL TOTEM IS OURS ONCE MORE AND YOU ARE ABOUT TO JOIN YOUR ANCESTORS! NEVER MORE WILL YOU PLAGUE US!





THE CHALLENGER

A RED ROAN Wild Horse Story



THE MOUNTAIN AIR was clear and crisp. All that could be heard was the chirping of a tiny bird in a thicket, and the faint whispering of the breeze, playing through the stunted oak on the slopes.

Then there came a new sound—the drumming of a horse's hooves on the mountain-side.

Moving swiftly, his scarlet coat gleaming brilliantly in the sunlight, a great stallion came into view. Long mane and tail waving like crimson banners, it was easy to see how he had earned the name of Red Roan, King of the Wild Horses! It did not seem that any other wild stallion could match him for speed or for grace!

Long strides eating up the miles, Red Roan was galloping toward the Sierra Verde range, where he knew his herd would be waiting for him.

A month before, the strawberry stallion's leg had been badly injured in a battle with a huge bear. But he had been taken home and nursed back to health by the ranchman whose life he had saved. Now, leg healed, he had been released, and was heading for his herd again.

Momentarily, the crimson bronc paused on a little hillock, great dark nostrils searching the wind. There was a faint scent in the air. His eyes flicked over the distant mountain range. Yes! There they were! The mares and colts of the wild horse herd were cropping grass on a distant slope!

Tossing his long head, Red Roan pawed the ground, eagerly.

Then, whinnying, he sped down the hillcock, and galloped across the intervening plain. But as he approached the herd, he suddenly pulled back, skidding to a surprised halt. For there, standing boldly before the mares and colts, was another stallion!

This was a giant black horse, powerfully muscled, his sides and legs torn and scarred with the wounds of many a cruel fight. His pose was one of defiance. He had taken over the leadership of the herd in Red

Roan's absence, and he intended to keep it. But Red Roan had returned to lead the herd himself and, according to the way of the wild, only a test of might could settle the differences between the two stallions.

"NEEIIIGHHHHH!"

Without hesitating, Red Roan plunged forward. There was a challenger to the king of the herd, and the challenger must be beaten!

Swiftly, the midnight-black horse wheeled to meet the attack. Rearing back, he was outlined against the blue sky, and Red Roan could see that his opponent stood a good hand above him, and that he probably weighed a great deal more, too!

Straining mightily, white teeth gleaming, the two horses joined battle.

Again and again, their hooves opened ugly gashes in the other's sides and flanks. Again and again, their teeth grazed the other's head and neck, in savage, wolf-like bites!

Unused to battle, and weakened by his month of inactivity, Red Roan slowly began to tire. He fought valiantly, but the weariness crept in a great waves through his back and legs. He could not move so quickly and the black horse was reaching him more easily with his punishing blows.

Then, the challenger suddenly lunged forward with all his might, smashing Red Roan squarely on his side.

CAUGHT off balance, the scarlet horse was hurled to the ground. Immediately, a terrible pain shot through his leg! The old wound he had suffered from the bear had reopened. Somehow, he managed to struggle to his feet, avoiding the lashing, hammer-like blows of his triumphant enemy! Then, head down, he cantered away, favoring the wounded leg, limping badly, and bleeding in several spots.

When he was a half-mile away, Red Roan turned.

The black stallion had returned to the

herd, having repelled the old ruler. Now he was king, for he had won the battle. It was Nature's law.

Slowly, Red Roan moved away, a solitary speck on the plain.

He had been in this position when he was a young horse and had been defeated by the gray king of the herd. Then he had come back to become the ruler. But would his leg heal now? Could he ever defeat this mighty black horse? Dejected, Red Roan began to crop grass.

A MONTH WENT BY. In time, the crimson stallion's leg had knit. And, through his constant movements on the prairie in following the travels of the herd, he had regained his old strength. Red Roan felt that it was now time to challenge his enemy again.

But he knew that it would be no easy fight!

"He is cunning and he is strong! So I, too, must be cunning!"

The herd had come to a spot in the mountains that Red Roan remembered from his colthood days. There was a great pine forest, and below it, a stream that opened out into a muskeg-covered swamp. Here Red Roan had once seen a moose, wandered down from the North Woods, hopelessly mired! With his great weight, the moose had broken through the layer of muskeg, and had become trapped in the swamp beneath!

As he remembered the moose, Red Roan suddenly brought his head high in the breeze. There was a chance—a chance he would take!

Curvetting, Red Roan turned toward the herd. His mane whipping in the breeze, he galloped up, and then halted again, just as he had a month before. Imperiously, his whinny was heard. Just as the month before, the giant black steed galloped out to meet him! All along, the black horse had watched him following the herd, wondering when he would press the fight again.

Now he knew and he was not worried! This time, the midnight horse decided, the fight would be to a finish. Only one would survive!

For a moment, the horses reared high on their hind legs, striking out angrily. Then, Red Roan turned, and began to trot away, down the slope.

Without pausing, the bigger horse slip-

ped into quick pursuit. Again they met in a blurred whirl of combat, and again Red Roan was the first to pull away. The black stallion followed him close to the old muskeg swamp.

Hooves making hollow, sucking sounds. Red Roan lunged into the swamp. The giant midnight bronc was close behind him.

The black horse reared high, his feet pounding a savage tattoo on Red Roan's side! But now Red Roan turned and fought back with a savage fury that would not be denied. The black steed whirled away and then came back to the fight. Together they twisted and slashed, long teeth drawing painful welts.

Then the greater weight of the black horse had a sudden, disastrous effect!

First one, then the other of his hind legs, broke through the muskeg. Desperately he struggled, trying to escape; but the harder he fought, the worse he became embroiled. And all the while he was pinioned to the treacherous swamp, Red Roan was slashing at him, biting, hitting him with mighty hooves. This was what he had planned!

Finally, the black horse sank helplessly to the ground in surrender. It was the end. He was ready to die.

But Red Roan stepped back. He was not a vengeful conqueror. He stood there, sides heaving in and out. After a while, recovering strength, the black horse managed to heave himself up from the muskeg. Thoroughly beaten, both by Red Roan's courage and cunning, he stumbled out of the swamp.

With great dark eyes, Red Roan watched him go. He knew he would not return, for in this battle the master had been proven.

Slowly, the scarlet stallion's tongue licked his wounds.

THEN his nostrils flickered, and he raised his head. There, on the hillside above the swamp, the herd was waiting for its leader. His tail whipped out in the air and his feet drummed along the ground. He had been away a long time, but Red Roan was once again ruler of the herd!

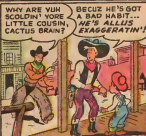
THE END

Follow Lash LaRue in **SIX GUN**
HEROES at your newsstand
now.

LASH La RUE WESTERN

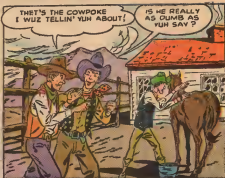
LOCO LEW

"WAXES SILLY"



LASH La RUE WESTERN

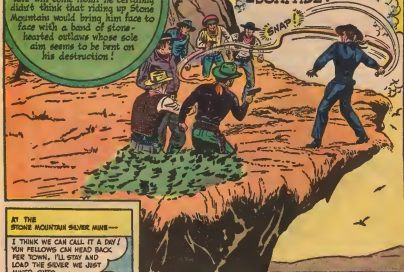
HAMMERHEAD



Lash La RUE

and the
STONE MOUNTAIN
ESCAPADE!

Roaming Marshal, Lash LaRue never knows where his next adventure will come from. He certainly didn't think that riding up Stone Mountain would bring him face to face with a band of stone-hearted outlaws whose sole aim seems to be bent on his destruction!



AT THE
STONE MOUNTAIN SILVER MINE—

I THINK WE CAN CALL IT A DRY! YUN FELLOWS CAN HEAD BACK PER TOWN. I'LL STAY AND LOAD THE SILVER WE JUST MINED ONTO THE WAGON!

OKAY, MR. BRILL, WE'LL SEE YUN IN THE MORNING!

THAT GO THE MINERS NOW, CRYSTAL!

AS SOON AS THEY GET OUT OF SIGHT, WE'LL TAKE OVER THE SILVER, TURSID. YUN AND DEAD-SHOT GET READY TO RIDE IN!

OKAY, LET'S GO!

OUTLAWS! I'LL FIX THEM!



LASH La RUE WESTERN

DON'T LET HIM FIRE THAT GUN! THOSE MINERS CAN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY YET AND A SHOT WOULD BRING THEM ALL RUNNING BACK!



I RECKON WE DON'T HAVE TO FRET ABOUT HIS SHOOTING OFF THE GUN NOW!



TAKE HIM INSIDE THE MINE AND TAKE CARE OF HIM, DEAD-SHOT! WE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ANYONE AROUND WHO CAN IDENTIFY US!



THE UNFORTUNATE BRILL'S TEN GALLON HAT FLIES OFF HIS HEAD....

...AND IS CARRIED DOWN THE MOUNTAIN BY A GUST OF WIND!



BUT AT THE SAME TIME, RIDING ALONG THE BOTTOM OF STONE MOUNTAIN, IS NONE OTHER THAN THE ROVING MARSHAL, LASH LA RUE!



AND COINCIDENCE PLAYS ANOTHER OF ITS UNBELIEVABLE TRICKS AS THE HAT PICKS A PLACE TO SETTLE!

THAT SOMBRERO IS MIGHTY BECOMING ON YOU, BLACK DIAMOND! BUT NEVERTHELESS, I THINK WE OUGHT TO RETURN IT TO ITS OWNER!



IT PROBABLY FELL FROM THE TOP OF STONE MOUNTAIN. LET'S GO, BOY!



LASH La RUE WESTERN

AS LASH APPROACHES THE STONE MOUNTAIN SILVER MINE ---

LOOK, BOSS! SOME-ONE'S RIDING UP WITH BRILL'S HAT!

(GULP!) I RECOGNIZE THE CRITTER! IT'S THE LAWMAN---LASH LA RUE. IF HE STARTS ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE THE OWNER OF THE HAT IS, WE'RE DONE FER!



THEN I RECKON IT'S UP TO ME, TO MAKE SURE HE CAN'T ASK QUESTIONS! THOSE MINERS ARE FAR ENOUGH AWAY BY NOW TO RISK A SHOT!



CAUGHT OFF GUARD, THE UNSUSPECTING LASH MAKES AN EASY TARGET FOR THE OUTLAW, DEAD-SHOT!



THEY'VE GOT MY WHIP ARM, BUT I'VE GOT TO PRETEND THEY'VE KILLED ME! I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGHT ALL SIX OF THEM WITH MY LEFT HAND AND IF THEY DIDN'T THINK I WAS ALREADY DEAD, THEY'D LOSE NO TIME FINISHING THE JOB!



LOOK! HIS HOSS IS RUNNING OFF TOWARD TOWN! YUN GOT TO STOP HIM! LA RUE'S HOSS WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN TOWN AND THAT'LL BRING A WHOLE POSSE OUT LOOKING FER THE MARSHAL!

DON'T FRET, CRYSTAL! WE'LL STOP HIM! HIT YORE SADDLES, BOYS!



I'LL HIDE THIS BODY INSIDE THE MINE ALONG WITH THE OTHER!

WITH THE OTHER? THESE KILLERS MUST HAVE KILLED THE MINE OWNER!



LASH La RUE WESTERN

THAT HE GOES AROUND THE
TURN! HURRY!



BUT THE CLEVER BLACK DIAMOND,
DASHES OFF THE TRAIL---



---AND, HIDING BEHIND A HUGE
BOULDER, WATCHES THE OUTLAWS
RIDE BY!



SPUR MORE HORSES!
HE'S GAINING ON
US!

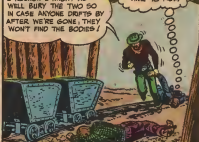
THEN, AS SOON AS THEY'RE OUT OF SIGHT, BLACK
DIAMOND HEADS BACK UP THE TRAIL, SENSING THAT
HIS MASTER IS IN TROUBLE!



MEANWHILE---

I RECKON I MIGHT AS
WELL BURY THE TWO SO
IN CASE ANYONE DRIFTS BY
AFTER WE'RE GONE, THEY
WOULDN'T FIND THE BODIES!

I THINK IT'S
TIME TO ACT!

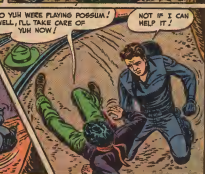


HUH?

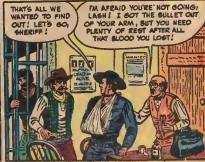
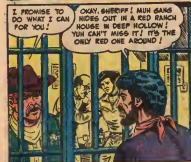
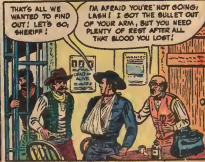
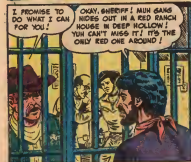
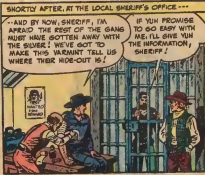


SO YUH WERE PLAYING ROBBER!
WELL, I'LL TAKE CARE OF
YUH NOW!

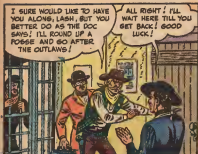
NOT IF I CAN
HELP IT!



LASH La RUE WESTERN



LASH La RUE WESTERN



BUT EARLIER, JUST AS LASH HAD LEFT WITH CRYSTAL, THE LEADER'S MEN RETURNED TO THE MINE:

NOT ONLY DID THE MARSHAL'S BOSS GET SO AWAY FROM US, BUT NOW CRYSTAL'S GONE, TOO! THAT LASH WAS PLAYING DEAD! BY NOW HE'S PROBABLY GOT THE BOSS IN JAIL!

WHAT, DEAD-SHOT? THAT ISN'T ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! CRYSTAL WILL DO JUST AS WE PLANNED IN CASE ANY OF US WERE EVER CAUGHT! HE'LL ---



---PRETEND TO SQUEAL AND GIVE AWAY OUR HIDE-OUT! WHEN THEY RACE OUT TO CATCH US, THEY'LL FALL INTO THE TRAP WE'VE GOT READY! THEN WITHOUT ANY LAWMEN AROUND, IT'LL BE A CINCH TO GET CRYSTAL OUTTA JAIL! NOW LET'S GO!



SHORTLY AFTER, IN DEEP HOLLOW--

COVER THIS TRAP WELL, MEN! IT'S GOT TO LOOK LIKE SOLID GROUND! THEN, WHEN THE POSSE RIDES UP, THEY'LL FALL INTO IT!



HA, HA! YEAH! THEN WE'LL RUSH OUT AND FINISH THEM OFF!

THE POSSE ADVANCES, NOT REALIZING THEY'RE RIDING INTO A DEATH TRAP!



WE'RE NEARING DEEP HOLLOW NOW, MEN! THE RED RANCH HOUSE WE'RE LOOKING FOR SHOULDN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY!

WHILE BACK IN THE JAILHOUSE---

IT'S TOO BAD LASH DIDN'T GO ALONG SO HE COULD HAVE FALLEN INTO THE TRAP ALSO! BUT WITH THAT BAD ARM, I'LL GET RID OF HIM EASILY WHEN THE BOYS SPRING ME!



I DON'T LIKE THAT EXPRESSION ON CRYSTAL'S FACE! HE'S BEEN GRINNING LIKE A PLEADED CAT EVER SINCE HE TOLD THE SHERIFF WHERE THE HIDE-OUT WAS!

I CAN'T STOP THINKING THAT THAT GIN COULD MEAN HE'S LED THE POSSE INTO SOME SORT OF TRAP! BAD ARM OR NO BAD ARM I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE!



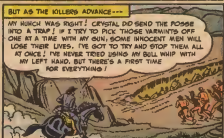
NIT THE TRAIL, BLACK DIAMOND! I KNOW A SHORT CUT TO DEEP HOLLOW!

MEANWHILE---

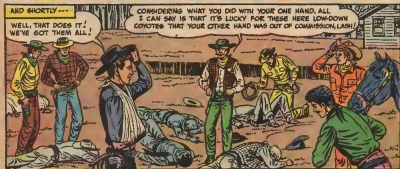


HERE COMES THE POSSE NOW!

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